

**MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY**  
**GOVERNOR'S MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION and the**  
**ARIZONA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, October 18, 2005 10 a.m.**  
**Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**OPENING REMARKS**

Co-Chair Tom Finnegan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Since the last meeting, Nancy Stump resigned her position and the newest member of the Commission named by the Legislature is Representative John B. Nelson.

Co-chair Atkins mentioned that all Commissioners are required to attend a class on ethics that is offered by the State of Arizona. The next class will be this Friday, and she encouraged all members who have not taken the class to attend.

Co-chair Atkins thanked Patrick F. Chorpensing, the Governor's Policy Advisor on Military Affairs, for his hard work with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Through his efforts, the Society held their annual convention in Arizona this year. There were 76 of the 120 living Medal of Honor recipients at the convention. The week-long program included an opportunity for the public to meet with these amazing heroes. Co-chair Atkins expressed her appreciation to Pat Chorpensing for the exceptional job he has been doing as the Governor's Policy Advisory on Military Affairs.

**ROLL CALL & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

Commissioners Present:

- Lisa Atkins, Co-Chair, West Valley
- Tom Finnegan, Co-Chair, Sierra Vista
- Dr. William D. Carrell, Jr., Tucson
- Mayor James Cavanaugh, Goodyear
- Mayor Tom Hessler, City of Sierra Vista
- Robert Johnston, Lt. Gen., USMC (Ret.), Tucson (participated by telephone)
- Representative John Nelson, Arizona House of Representatives
- Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe, Yuma
- Supervisor Sandie Smith, Pinal County (participated by telephone)
- Priscilla Storm, Diamond Ventures in Tucson (participated by telephone)
- Senator Thayer Verschoor, Senate Appointee
- Mayor Robert Walkup, City of Tucson

Ex-Officio and Staff Members Present:

- Patrick F. Chorpensing, Military Policy Advisor to the Governor
- Deb Sydenham, Arizona Department of Commerce
- Patricia Boland, Assistant Attorney General

Commissioners Absent:

- Michael Francis, West Valley Community Action Coalition (unable to attend, as he chairs the Power Authority Commission which met today)
- Thomas Browning, Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret.), Phoenix (prior commitment)
- Supervisor Lenore Stuart, Yuma County (unable to attend due to illness)

A quorum was established and the minutes of the July 13, 2005 meeting were approved as published.

## **COMMISSIONERS UPDATES**

Dr. Carroll is chairing the DM Open Space Advisory Committee and is providing advice to the Pima County Board of Supervisors regarding the use of funds. Down the road, he is working to solicit additional support from the Military Affairs Commission.

Monsignor O'Keefe is very pleased that Yuma was not affected by the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Commission). He continues to monitor the Yuma Proving Ground, especially focusing on encroachment on the eastern boundary near the Maricopa County border. He is currently working on an effort to acquire 500,000 acres of land from the Bureau of Land Management.

Mayor Walkup expressed his appreciation to Bob Johnston for his help with the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Through the Udall Center, they continue to work on issues of importance to the citizens of Tucson (such as flight operations over the City of Tucson).

Mayor Hessler announced that Ft. Huachuca is having a dish installed so that it can provide other channels to service personnel in addition to the Pentagon Channel. The League of Arizona Cities and Towns recently approved a set of resolutions that included one that urges the Governor and Legislators to continue to support the state's military facilities. The League will soon prioritize the list of resolutions. Mayor Hessler would like to see this resolution listed as one of the top five issues to be addressed by the Military Affairs Commission. He requested that his fellow mayors on the Commission support it. He is looking forward to seeing Deb Sydenham, Deputy Director for Community Planning with the Dept. of Commerce, in Sierra Vista regarding land use. City staff personnel will be going to Monterey, California to see how they can better utilize the Army's privatization initiative. He will provide a report in January, if the information appears to be valuable to the Military Affairs Commission.

Mayor Cavanaugh announced that the City of Peoria did a great job launching the Pentagon Channel in the west valley. At the beginning of the filmed presentation, the Secretary of Defense and Senator McCain gave their support. The purpose behind the Pentagon Channel is to get information to service personnel who might not otherwise have access to stateside information. John Schell, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the City of Peoria, was a real force behind this effort. WestMarc is monitoring the closure of Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico recommended by BRAC. The installation will stay open until 2009 and leadership is searching for another mission that can be moved to Cannon. Mayor Cavanaugh also indicated that it was important for each Commissioner to identify any weaknesses

where military installations may be vulnerable to criticism. The purpose of the Military Affairs Commission is to protect our installations and this would be an excellent step in shoring up any “soft spots” we can identify.

Priscilla Storm thanked Dr. Carroll and Mayor Walkup for their comments. She provided information in the Commissioner packets regarding the background of the Military Community Compatibility Committee (MC3). In the interest of time, she deferred to Bob Johnston.

Gen. Johnson wanted to mention the MC3 activities in Tucson. The group established a protocol for how it will maximize productive dialogue and viable, consensus recommendations. Given the shortness of this meeting, it isn’t possible to discuss all the details of the process. Gen. Johnston suggested that the Military Affairs Commission shape its mission so that the mayors aren’t required to deal with issues individually when there are statewide implications.

Supervisor Smith continues to identify issues in Pinal County relating to zoning and land use.

Rep. John Nelson visited three military installations since the last meeting, and is committed to enhancing Arizona’s military presence. With the passage of time since the BRAC, he expects staunch supporters to begin losing their enthusiasm.

Patrick F. Chorpenning asked that Military Affairs Commission regain its focus now that the BRAC recommendations have been finalized. The effect of the recommended closure of the Air Force Research Lab requires attention. Silverbell and Florence installations in the Marana area will face encroachment issue in the very near future. There are currently two separate Military Affairs Commissions at present and we need to determine how the two might be consolidated. We have a great deal of work over the next few months. Sen. Verschoor and Rep. John Nelson will play an important role in seeking legislative remedies recommended by the Commission.

Co-Chair Atkins focused on moving into the part of the agenda where we can talk about the specific work that must be done post-BRAC. There are important federal issues that must be included as the Commission completes its original recommendations and identifies additional issues (such as service personnel being exploited by pay day loan businesses). Now that the 45 day disagreement period is almost over, we have a responsibility to advise the Governor regarding Joint Land Use Studies and federal issues. Co-Chair Atkins also mentioned that Lenore Stuart was not here today because of illness and asked that members keep her in their prayers.

Co-Chair Finnegan received a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report that provided an excellent summary of the BRAC process. He will get the report to Gabe Forsberg to distribute to the membership. The BRAC Commissioners may continue to function beyond its established life. There is definitely another round of the BRAC in the future, which will tie in the Quadrennial Review. One of the biggest questions is how the Commission will be funded for the extended period beyond the original lifespan of the BRAC. Co-Chair Finnegan asked that the members review the Military

Task Force Recommendations provided and make notes of the progress made for each action item. A new challenge in Sierra Vista has recently surfaced. The Center for Biodiversity is in the process of sending out lengthy letters to all business entities in Sierra Vista. Co-Chair Finnegan will try to get a clean copy of the correspondence and supply it to Gabe Forsberg for distribution to the members.

## **MILITARY INSTALLATION FUND**

Sherri Lee, Military Installation Fund (MIF) Program Manager - Department of Commerce, reported that the MIF process is well under way. The availability of the MIF program applications have been announced by the Department of Commerce in the following ways:

- Two statewide news releases
- Director Jimenez has announced the program twice in his daily message in the Commerce e-clips sent to over 3,000 individuals
- Legal notification ad was placed in the Tribune
- Emails were sent to all stakeholders attending public rules sessions throughout the state, members of the Military Affairs Commission (and staff), and other contacts (such as legislative offices).
- Announcement was made at the Luke West Valley Council Meeting
- Over 650 statewide economic and community development attendees received program information during the 3-day Governor's Rural Development Conference in Oro Valley.

The closing date for applications is November 1<sup>st</sup>. A reminder email of the closing date and a copy of the request form will again be sent by the close of business today to all rules session stakeholders, staff, and other contacts. To date, one completed application has been received for the purchase of private property. Several jurisdictions are now working on project applications.

The Military Affairs Commission will be receiving further information regarding the applications from the Department of Commerce at the January 2006 meeting. Until that time, the Department of Commerce will be conducting its internal review.

## **BRIEFING, DEPT. OF DEFENSE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATORS**

Steven Arenson, Environmental Planner with the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (Western Regional Environmental Office) provided a brief history of the program. In the past, Department of Defense did not deal effectively with environmental issues. As a result, each branch of services has a coordinator responsible for a particular region. There were two other coordinators here today – DeEllen Brasher representing the Navy Region Southwest and Park Haney representing the US Army Western Regional Environmental Office. Mr. Arensen was very complimentary of the efforts by various levels of Arizona government on working cooperatively with the Department of Defense regarding the environment. He congratulated Arizona for working so hard with their local installations.

The DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators have a two-way communication flow – they are able to communicate issues learned from the area so that issues can be dealt with on the national level; and they work with local governments to clarify directives and regulations established on a federal level.

Compliance with established Environmental Protection Agency standards is certainly an important issue and they work frequently with clean up after a problem has been identified. As the DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators move beyond pure compliance, they are looking at encroachment and land management issues. Mr. Arenson applauded Arizona for its efforts in this arena. They are working with the Bureau of Land Management and are engaged in coordinating alternative energy source use with military missions.

Co-chair Finnegan requested a copy of the briefing so that it could be shared with the Military Affairs Commission. Mr. Arenson indicated that he would forward a PowerPoint presentation to be distributed to the Commissioners.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ABOUT CURRENT & FUTURE ACTION ITEMS**

### *America Supports You / Pentagon Channel*

At the last meeting, Rep. John Nelson provided a briefing on the Pentagon Channel. Now that Rep. Nelson is a member of the Commission, Co-chair Atkins requested that he and Mayor James Cavanaugh form a committee to identify possible actions that may be taken by the Commission. They agreed to do so and report back to Co-chair Atkins.

### *Post BRAC (Base Realignment And Closure) Discussion*

Co-chair Atkins asked that the Military Affairs Commissioners review the Military Task Force Commission Recommended Action Items in their packets and provide feedback to Gabe Forsberg by email ([gforsberg@azdvs.gov](mailto:gforsberg@azdvs.gov)) by the end of November.

### *“Soft Spot” Reports*

Mayor Cavanaugh wanted to identify “soft spots” or areas where the Military Affairs Commission can take action. He suggested that members select 5 of the most critical issues and specify actions that the Military Affairs Commission can take the remedy identified weaknesses.

Mayor Walkup asked that the mayors focus on issues from their communities where the bases may have deviate from normal exercises (such as periodic training missions where helicopters are involved in low-level flight in populated areas). Mayor Cavanaugh indicated that there is a group of mayors in the west valley who work cooperatively with the military and is not aware of these types of issues near Luke Air Force Base.

Dr. Carroll offered that each of the bases should develop their individual lists and submit “soft spot” issues to the Commission. The Military Affairs Commission could compile common issues so that statewide remedies could be developed.

Co-chair Finnegan suggested that solutions may need to be directed to local governments (cities and counties) and there may need to be a kind of a blue print established for use statewide.

Supervisor Smith indicated that Pinal County has significant safeguards for land owners. Encroachment becomes more difficult when land owners start to split out their parcels and sell them to developers. Issues such as light pollution have occurred, especially in the La Osa area. The association of County Boards of Supervisors has been dealing with this issue statewide. The Legislature has implemented very strong land owner rights legislation, making county control more difficult.

Co-chair Finnegan will work on developing a matrix to collect data from each of the major military installations. He will need to have contributors identify Federal, State, County, and City issues. Upon receipt of the information, the Commission will need to look at best practices and begin crafting legislation to address the issues.

Co-chair Finnegan requested volunteers to develop the “soft spot” reports.

Assignments which are due by the end of November are as follows:

- Monsignor O’Keefe will report on the Yuma area
- Mayor Cavanaugh will report on Luke Air Force Base
- Mayor Walkup and Dr. Carroll will report on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
- Supervisor Smith will focus on Pinal County and Pat Chorpensing will assist her with issues regarding National Guard operations there

### *Best Practices*

Deb Sydenham, Community Development – Department of Commerce, has a statewide policy guide available. Her agency is rolling out the individual studies and best practices. Commerce is holding a review meeting in Sierra Vista (because there has not yet been a Joint Land Use Study there) and then in Yuma (to review a draft of the study that was recently completed). Besides Arizona, only California is planning to develop a best practices guide. Commerce does have permission to proceed with a Joint Land Use Study in Sierra Vista. Ms. Sydenham is hopeful that a Joint Land Use Study will be conducted in Marana soon, but it may be as late as 2007 before it can be funded.

### *Military Community Compatibility Committee*

Priscilla Storm recapped materials contained in the Commissioners packets. The Morris K. Udall Center agreed to provide an interface between the community (neighborhood associations, land owners, homeowner associations) and the City. The City of Tucson adopted a Joint Land Use Study and the non-military community has raised issues regarding the quality of life in areas that are affected by military exercises. There have been two meetings of the 25 member board and Ms. Storm wanted to invite everyone at today’s meeting to attend the October 19, November 30 and December 14 meetings

Ms. Storm indicated that the neighborhood association believed that by using a hypothetical noise contour, the Joint Land Use Study process encouraged more intrusive noise contour over mid-town areas.

*Military May Seek to Profit from Monroe (Article is the last page of the packet)*

Co-chair Atkins identified that closed bases are not automatically being transferred to state ownership, as it was done previously. This may be an issue that requires a meeting with the Governor and Legislative leadership to provide advice regarding the recommended closure of the Air Force Research Lab in Mesa.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

Val Malutin introduced himself. He is a Commissioner on the Chairman for the Governor's Aerospace and Defense Commission and recognized interests that are common to both organizations. This Aerospace Commission started meeting in January 2005 and hopes to coordinate efforts with the Military Affairs Commission.

#### **FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

The next meeting will be held January 10, 2006. Meetings will continue to be held on Tuesdays, as it suits the majority of the members. Teleconferencing will continue to be available for members with scheduling conflicts on Tuesdays.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.